



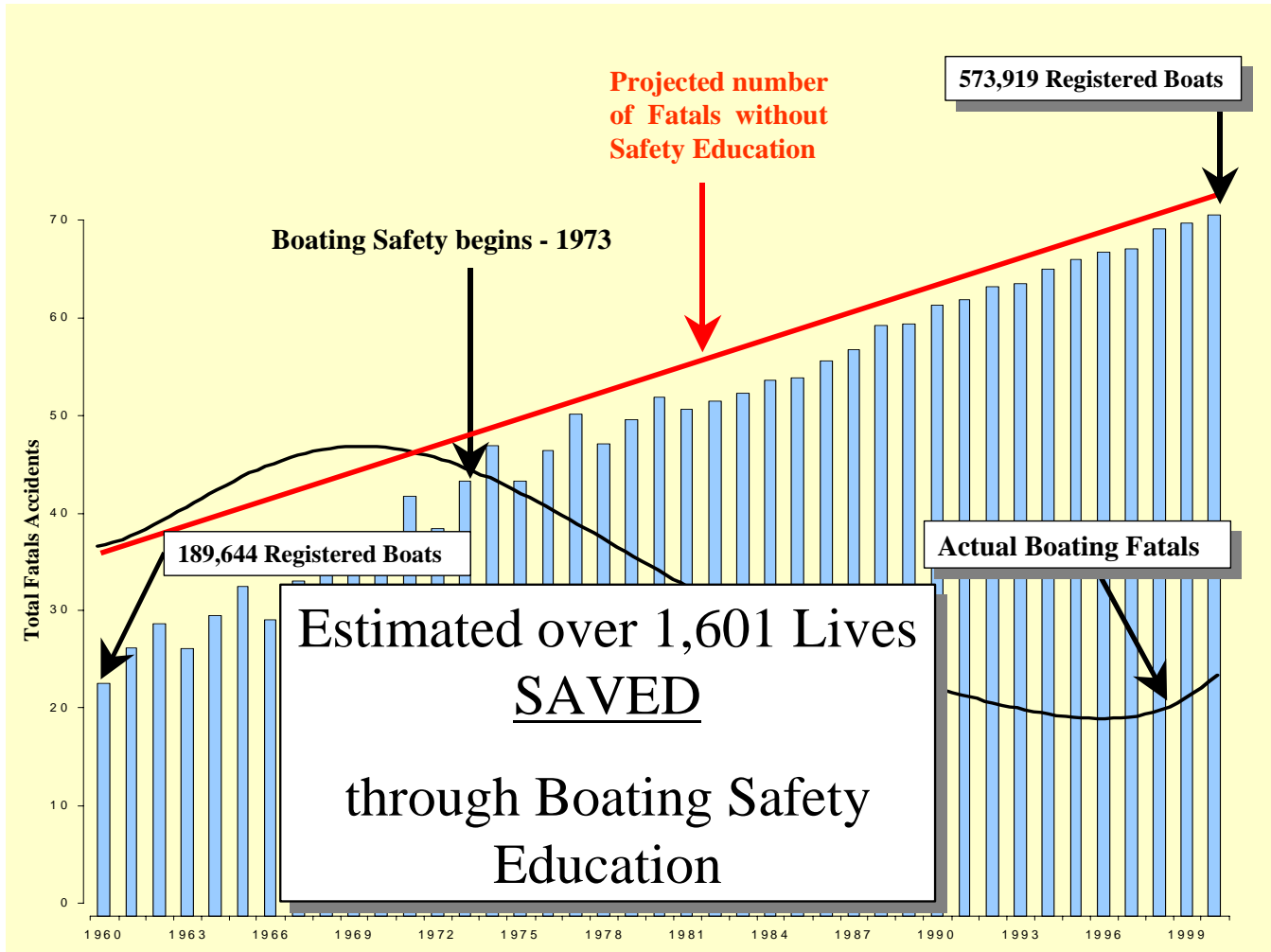
2002 BOATING PROGRAM REPORT

**Wisconsin Department of Natural
Resources**

Bureau of Law Enforcement

PUB-LE-314-2003

PROJECTED LIVES SAVED THROUGH BOATING SAFETY EDUCATION



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WISCONSIN BOATING PROGRAM SCOPE

The boating program in the Bureau of Law Enforcement has a wide range of duties and responsibilities. The eight major areas of responsibilities are:

- Boating Safety Education
- Boating Enforcement
- Boat Lien/Theft Investigation
- Municipal Ordinance Review and Administration
- Waterway Marker Permitting and Administration
- Boat Accident Investigation, Reporting, and Administration
- Designated Mooring Area Review and Approval
- Underwater Archaeology Protection

PROGRAM SUMMARIES

1. Boating Safety Education

In 2002 the Boating Safety Education Program sponsored 307 boating safety courses, certifying 7,115 students. There are currently 603 active state volunteer instructors certified to teach boating safety.

In Wisconsin, the law requires that no person under the age of 16 may operate a motorized boat without adult supervision unless they have successfully completed a state boating safety course. The State does recognize the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary and United States Power Squadron courses taught in this state which follow state guidelines.

The Department introduced an alternative method for taking the boating safety class. The Department has partnered with a national leader in Boat Safety instruction to offer the State Boating Safety course over the internet. Now individuals who have had difficulty finding a classroom course to fit their schedule can go online to take the Boating Safety Course when it is most convenient for them.

The Department promotes an educational program geared towards preventing rental personal watercraft (PWC) accidents. Every business that rents PWC to the public is provided with educational materials for educating renters as well as a PWC decal to be placed on each rental PWC outlining PWC laws and safety information.

The boating program also conducts non-formal education using various forms of media such as printed literature, radio, television, personal interviews, and presentations to many different groups across the state. During 2002, the state sponsored both television and radio boating safety messages. These educational efforts reached several million people. There were over 2 million pieces of boating safety literature handed out. Conservation wardens reached over 150,000 people through formal boating safety presentations.

2. Boating Enforcement

State conservation wardens and municipal patrol officers provided on-the-water enforcement of boating laws. In recent years emphasis has been placed on enforcement of boating while

intoxicated laws and personal watercraft enforcement. The United States Coast Guard also provided enforcement in some areas of the state.

The boating program administers funding to municipal water safety patrols to reimburse them for up to 75% of their operating expenses. In 2002, municipal patrols received \$1,400,000 of funding. In order to promote statewide uniformity and consistency among agencies conducting boating enforcement, the boating program also conducts yearly training sessions on new laws, policies and enforcement techniques for all municipal boat patrols.

3. Boat Lien/Theft Investigation

In 1993 the Department was given one position to handle problems and concerns relating to the transfer and registration of boats that have liens. This position has had an additional unexpected value to the public. In addition to handling the concerns and problems relating to boat titling and registration, this position has assisted the public, law enforcement agencies, the marine storage and repair industry, the insurance industry, and the lending industry in the detection and recovery of stolen boats and unpaid taxes. This position has identified problems and worked with the boat registration section to achieve "one-stop-shopping" for the public.

4. Municipal Ordinance Review Program

This program, designed to address local boating concerns and conditions, assists local municipalities in drafting local boating regulations tailored to local conditions. Authority for local municipalities to enact local regulations is found in s. 30.77(3), Wis. Stats. Ordinances are then required by statute to be submitted to the Department for review. Ordinances are reviewed for consistency with State and Federal Law. Any suggested changes and comments with regard to legality of the regulations are provided to the local municipality. If a municipality enacts an ordinance, which the Department has found to be inconsistent with statutory requirements, the Department may challenge the ordinance in court.

5. Waterway Marker Permitting and Administration

This program provides a permitting process for uniform marking of the waters of the state through the placement of aids to navigation. Conservation wardens inspect individual sites and recommend approval or disapproval of applications for placement of waterway markers. The boating program then reviews the application for compliance with state and federal requirements and either approves or denies the permit. The boating program also retains a permanent record of all approved buoy applications.

6. Boat Accident Investigation, Reporting and Administration

Conservation wardens and municipal water patrol officers are utilized to investigate most boating accidents. A boating accident is an accident where a person dies, is injured and medical treatment beyond first aid is required, damage to any property involved totals more than \$2000 or there is complete loss of a vessel. Information gathered during accident investigations, including the causes and contributing factors of accidents, are used by the program to determine what, when and where preventative or enforcement measures need to be made in the state. The boating program uses accident statistics to measure the effectiveness of its other programs.

The Department is required by state and federal law to gather boat accident reports and forward accident information to the United States Coast Guard. There were 152 boating accidents resulting in 19 fatalities in 2002.

7. Designated Mooring Area (DMA) Review and Approval

Local municipalities and riparian owners may apply to establish designated mooring areas adjacent to their property in accordance with the procedures outlined in Wisconsin Statutes. The boating program has the responsibility of investigating and reviewing all mooring ordinances and mooring area applications to determine whether the mooring area meets statutory requirements and to assure that the public's rights and interests in the waterway are not infringed upon. This entails working with local wardens, local units of government, adjoining landowners, and the boating public concerned with the placement of the mooring area. After complete investigation and review, the mooring area is either approved or denied.

The boating program also works to bring existing unpermitted mooring areas into compliance with statutory requirements. The end result is either issuing a permit for the area if it comes into compliance or ordering the unpermitted buoys to be removed.

8. Underwater Archaeology Protection

In 1992 Wisconsin Act 269 established a partnership between the Department of Natural Resources and the State Historical Society for the protection and management of Wisconsin's underwater archaeological resources, including historic shipwrecks. This program works to ensure that the public has recreational use of these sites, while at the same time protecting these sites from looting and vandalism.

Funding for the Law Enforcement Underwater Archaeology position ran out on June 30, 1996 due to budget cuts. Conservation wardens still maintain watch while on patrol and incidents are investigated case by case. Many contacts have been made. Close contact is maintained with the State Historical Societies Underwater Archaeology section to ensure that this resources is available to our future generations.

2002 BOATING ACCIDENT REPORT SUMMARY

The 2002 Wisconsin DNR Boating Program Report is compiled from information on boating education, boating enforcement and boating accident reporting. The largest section of this report is compiled from "reportable boat accident" reports.

DEFINITION OF A "REPORTABLE" BOATING ACCIDENT

Wisconsin law requires the operator of a vessel involved in a "reportable boat accident" to immediately report the incident to the law enforcement. A reportable boating accident means a collision, accident, or other incident involving a boat that results in death or injury to a person or a total property damage in excess of \$2,000.00.

NUMBER OF ACCIDENTS

During 2002 there were 152 "reportable" boat accidents involving 203 boats. Of these 152 boating accidents, there were 19 fatalities. This means that 12% of reportable accidents resulted in a fatality.

CAUSES OF ACCIDENTS

The top five causes of boat accidents reported by accident investigation in 2002 were:

1. Operator Inattention/Operator Inexperience
2. Passenger/skier behavior
3. Careless/Reckless Operation
4. Excessive Speed
5. Improper Lookout

We observed an increase in passenger/skier behavior as a contributing factor to this years accidents. Alcohol use was number 1 last year, this year it was number 6 on the list. These top five causes could all be prevented if the rules for safe boating were followed.

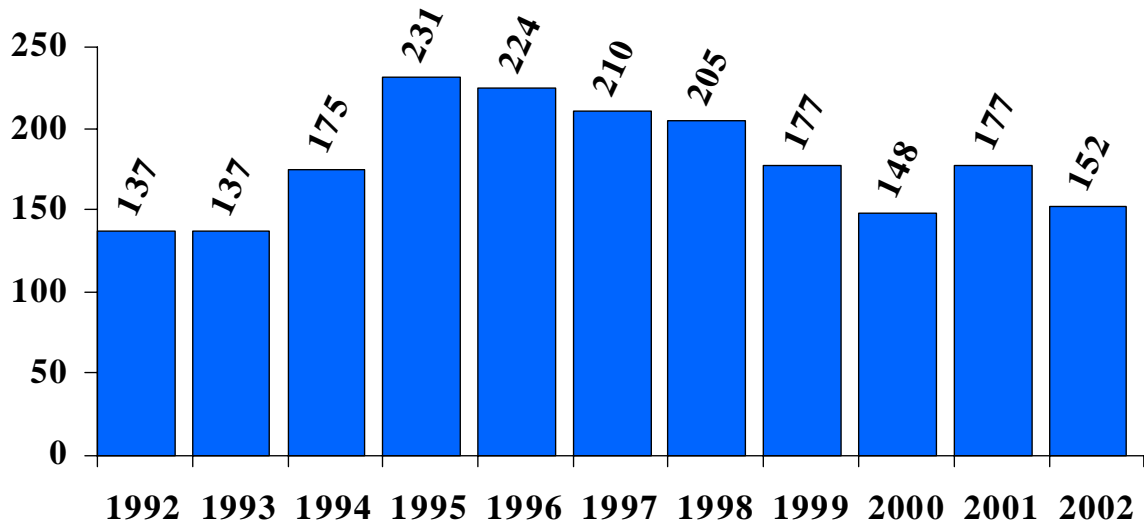
WHEN ACCIDENTS OCCURRED

July accounted for 33% of the reported accidents with 51 accidents including 28 injuries and 6 fatalities. Both June and August followed up with 23% of the accidents.

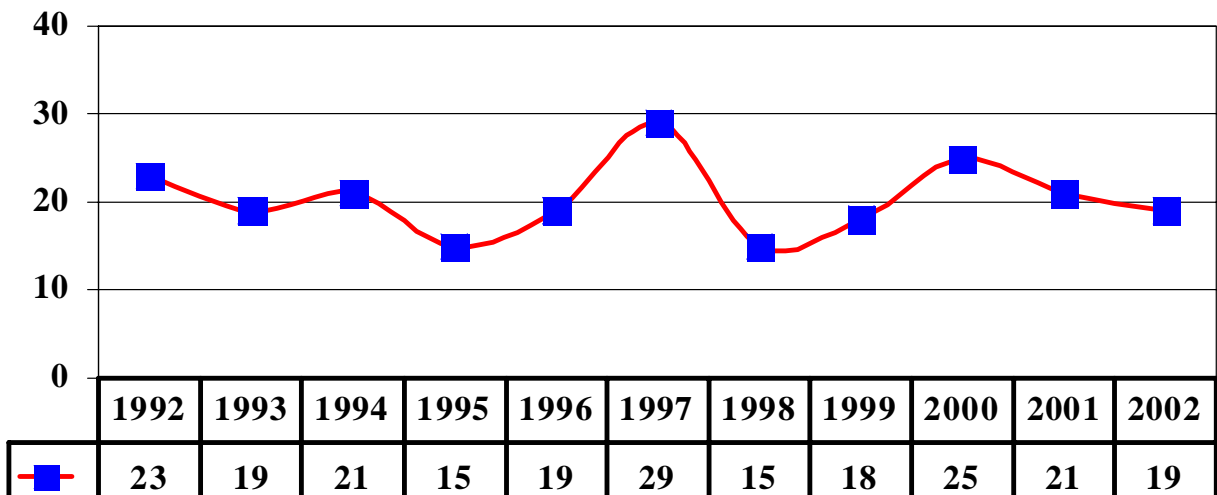
Fortunately, boat fatalities went down from last year, from 21 to 19. All of these boat accidents were preventable. Boating education and law enforcement are the keys to making Wisconsin waters safer. The Department is increasing its efforts by recruiting additional boating safety instructors, initiating a "online" boating safety course, focusing more attention on educating sportsmen about small boat safety, and keeping a watchful eye on our busiest waterways.

Ten Year Trends

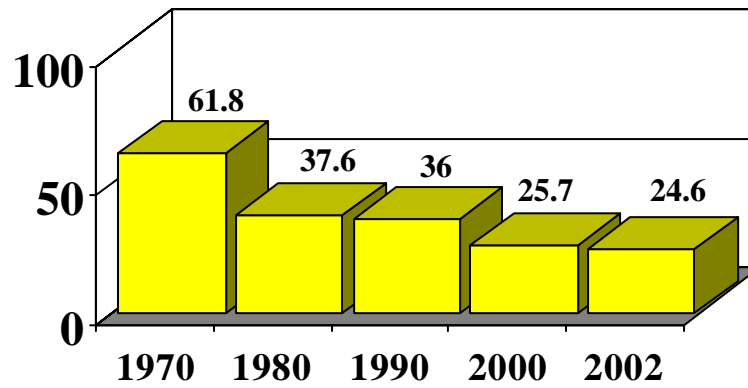
Wisconsin Boating Accidents



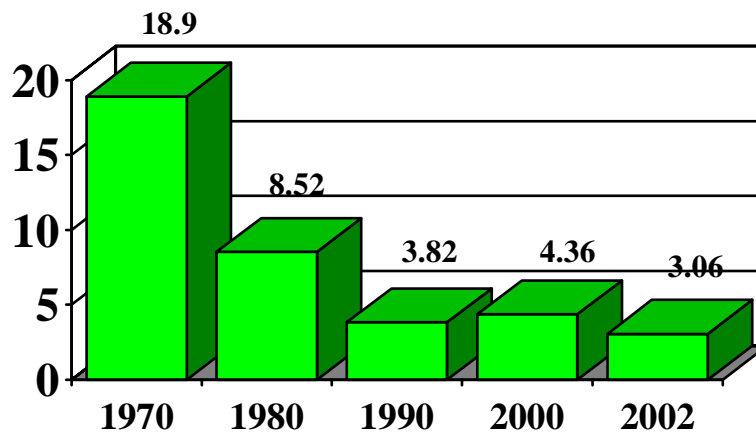
Wisconsin Boating Fatalities



1970-2001 Accidents Per 100,000 Registered Boats

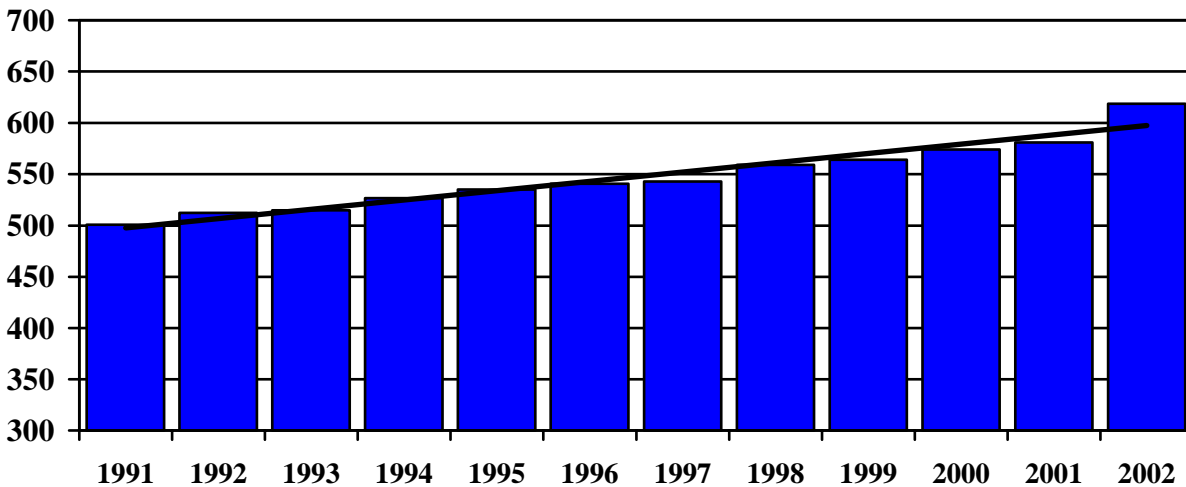


1970-2001 Fatalities Per 100,000 Registered Boats



WISCONSIN BOAT REGISTRATION HISTORICAL DATA

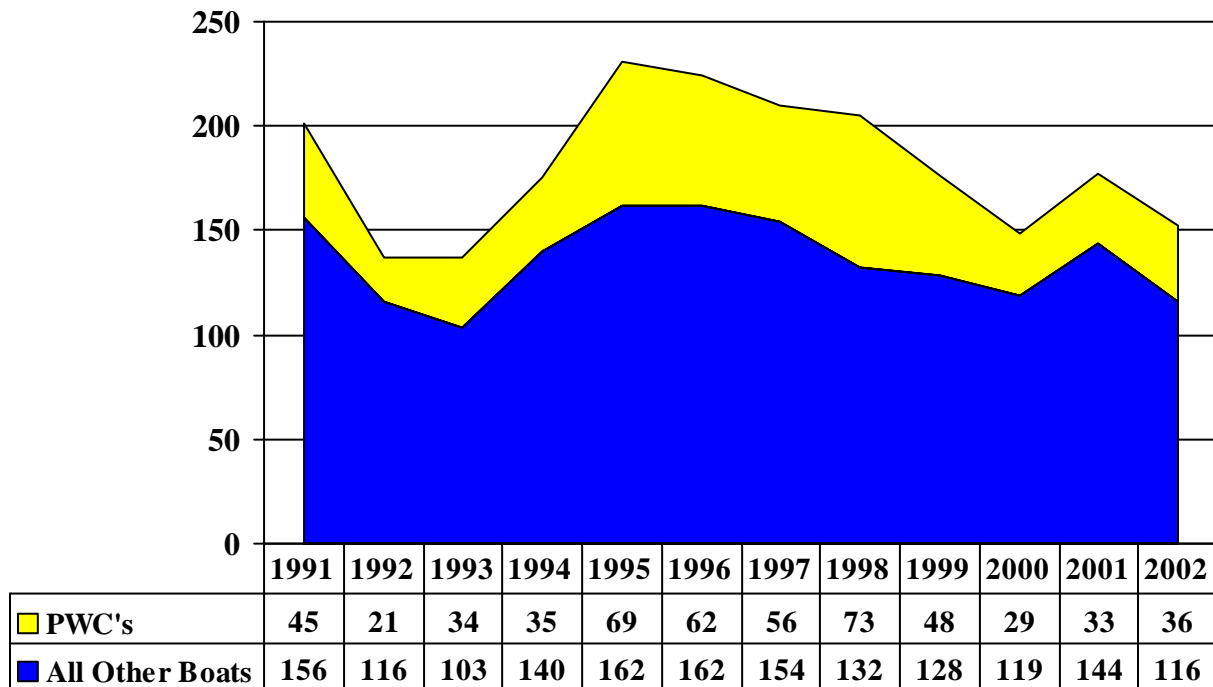
Number of Numbered Boats (in thousands)



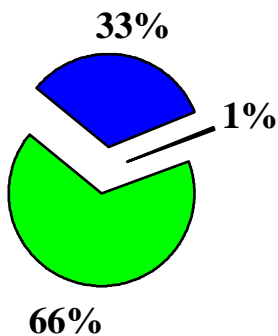
COUNT OF CURRENT REGISTERED BOATS IN WISCONSIN FOR 2002

COUNTY	# OF REG. BOATS	COUNTY	# OF REG. BOATS	COUNTY	# OF REG. BOATS
Adams	2944	Iron	1670	Price	3634
Ashland	2867	Jackson	2244	Racine	14996
Barron	9054	Jefferson	7457	Richland	1468
Bayfield	3693	Juneau	3279	Rock	12636
Brown	22790	Kenosha	10433	Rusk	2659
Buffalo	2131	Kewaunee	1964	Sauk	6289
Burnett	4787	La Crosse	10652	Sawyer	6000
Calumet	3476	Lafayette	1025	Shawano	5817
Chippewa	9400	Langlade	3423	Sheboygan	9948
Clark	3447	Lincoln	6661	St. Croix	8779
Columbia	7946	Manitowoc	8099	Taylor	2819
Crawford	2105	Marathon	17502	Trempealeau	3174
Dane	29351	Marinette	7334	Vernon	2378
Dodge	8239	Marquette	2981	Vilas	11129
Door	5011	Menominee	381	Walworth	11201
Douglas	7090	Milwaukee	35654	Washburn	5684
Dunn	4500	Monroe	3329	Washington	12597
Eau Claire	10959	Oconto	6111	Waukesha	40566
Florence	1133	Oneida	13036	Waupaca	9478
Fond Du Lac	10235	Outagamie	19783	Waushara	3630
Forest	2134	Ozaukee	6489	Winnebago	18523
Grant	4790	Pepin	1155	Wood	10998
Green	2337	Pierce	4552	Unknown	613
Green Lake	3675	Polk	8101	Out of State	56326
Iowa	1794	Portage	8580	TOTAL	619125

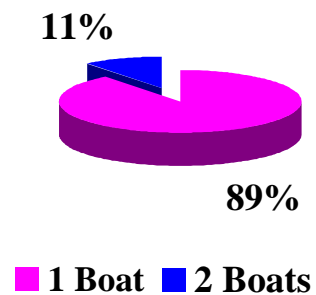
2002 TOTAL BOAT ACCIDENTS



**Number of Total Boats Involved
in Accidents in 2002**

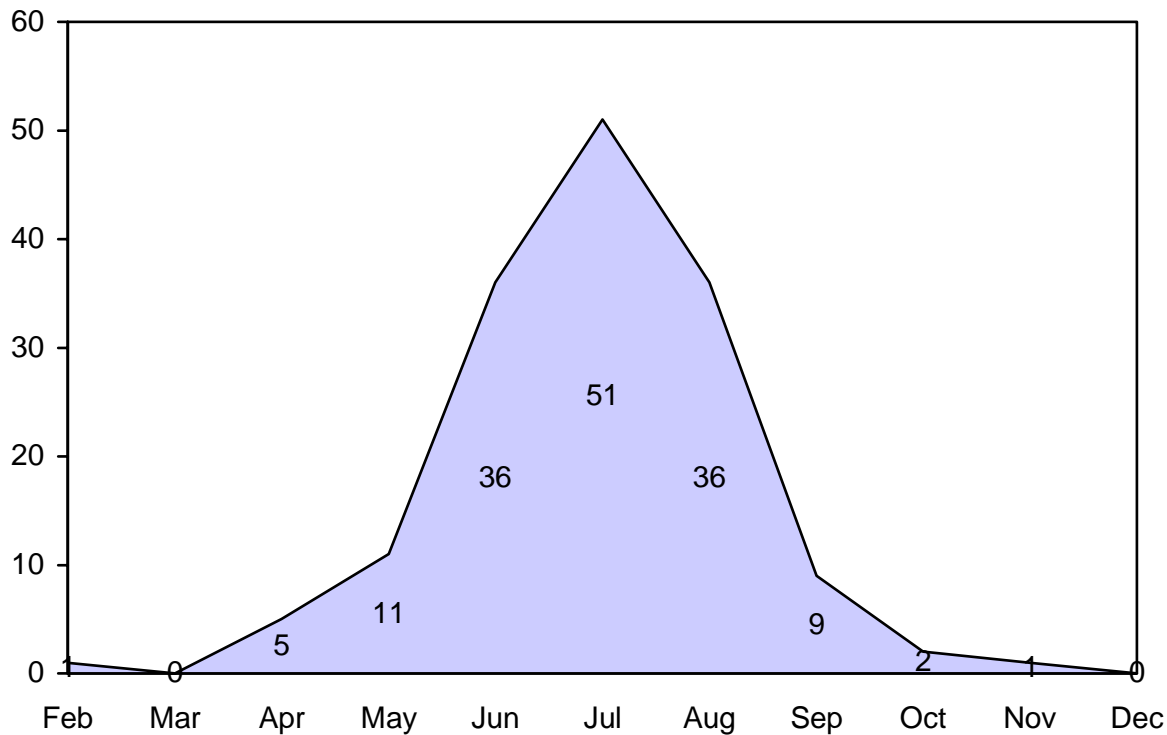


**Total Boats Involved in Fatalities in
2002**

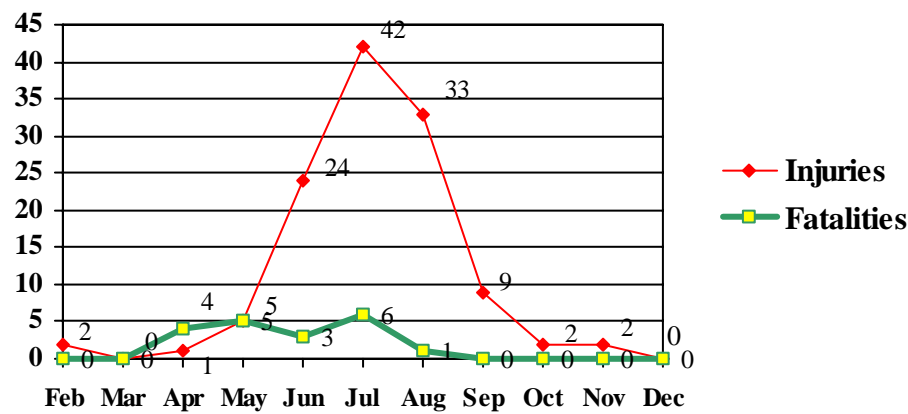


■ 1 Boat
 ■ 2 Boats
 ■ 3 or more

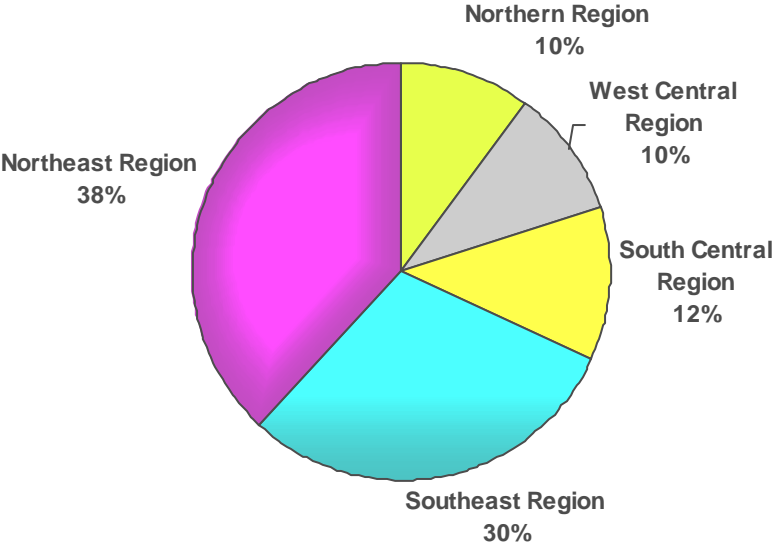
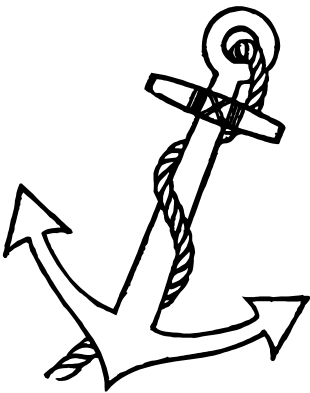
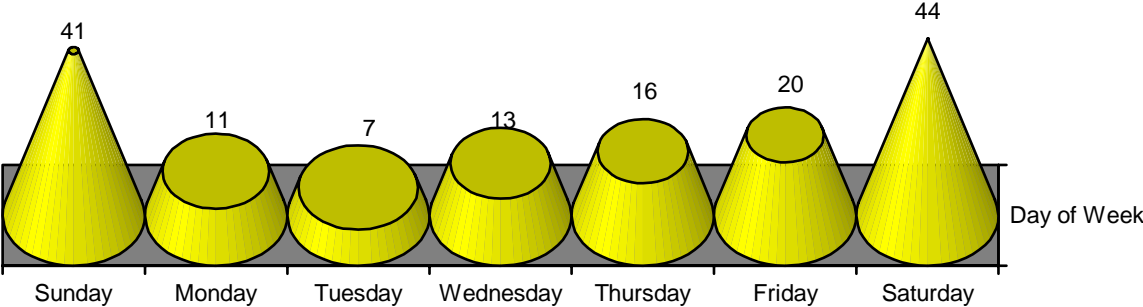
2002 Boat Accidents by Month



2002 Boat Accidents By Month Injuries vs. Fatalities



Day of Week 2002 Accidents Occur



Wisconsin Boating Fatality Final Summary - 2002 Season

- [Current Boating Fatality Summary - 2003 Season](#)

Updated through January 9, 2003 - 11am

#	Date/ Time	Water Body/ County	# Fatalites/ Age	Accident Type/ Cause of Death	Boat Type/ Size (length/hp)	PFD	Alcohol Involved
1.	04-14-02	Bay of Green Bay	1	Fell overboard	Canoe	No	Unable to test
	2:00 pm	Brown	19	Drowned	14', No motor		

Victim reported overdue so search began. Body found 5/1/02.

#	Date/ Time	Water Body/ County	# Fatalites/ Age	Accident Type/ Cause of Death	Boat Type/ Size (length/hp)	PFD	Alcohol Involved
2.	04-18-02	WI River (DuBay Dam)	1	Capsizing	Open	No	Unable to test
	6:20 pm	Portage	32	Drowned	12', No motor		

Witnesses observed the victim's boat capsize about 50' from the dam. Victim recovered on 5/8/02.

#	Date/ Time	Water Body/ County	# Fatalites/ Age	Accident Type/ Cause of Death	Boat Type/ Size (length/hp)	PFD	Alcohol Involved
3.	04-20-01	Warner Lake	1	Capsizing	Open	No	Yes
	7:15 pm	Price	47	Drowned	12', No motor		

Weight change in the boat caused boat to overturn. Victim and companion attempted to swim to shore, victim drowned.

#	Date/ Time	Water Body/ County	# Fatalites/ Age	Accident Type/ Cause of Death	Boat Type/ Size (length/hp)	PFD	Alcohol Involved
4.	05-14-02	Lake Menominee	1	Fell overboard	Open	No	No
	11:15 am	Dunn	63	Impact/Trauma	17', 60hp		

Victims boat found going in circles, victim hasn't surfaced.

#	Date/ Time	Water Body/ County	# Fatalites/ Age	Accident Type/ Cause of Death	Boat Type/ Size (length/hp)	PFD	Alcohol Involved
5.	05-14-02	Fox River	1	Capsizing	Open	No	No
	3:52 am	Winnebago	69	Drowned	14', 25hp		

Boat Victim was in started taking on water and capsized.

#	Date/ Time	Water Body/ County	# Fatalites/ Age	Accident Type/ Cause of Death	Boat Type/ Size (length/hp)	PFD	Alcohol Involved
6.	05-19-02	Koonz Lake	1	Capsizing	Open	No	Yes
	4:10 am	Shawano	17	Drowned	No motor		

Victim and two survivors tried to swim to shore after their vessel capsized.

#	Date/ Time	Water Body/ County	# Fatalites/ Age	Accident Type/ Cause of Death	Boat Type/ Size (length/hp)	PFD	Alcohol Involved
7.	05-25-02	Big Twin Lake	1	Capsizing	Open	No	No
	8:30 pm	Langlade	25	Drowned	12/7.5hp		

Operator lost control of the tiller after 3 attempts of righting the vessel, it capsized. Both attempted to swim to shore. Victim did not make it.

#	Date/ Time	Water Body/ County	# Fatalites/ Age	Accident Type/ Cause of Death	Boat Type/ Size (length/hp)	PFD	Alcohol Involved
8.	05-26-02	Cornucopia Harbor	1	Fire	Cabin Sail	No	Yes
	4:00 am	Bayfield	47	Fire			

Victims sail boat was tied to the dock and started on fire. The boat burned down to the water line with victim on board.

#	Date/ Time	Water Body/ County	# Fatalites/ Age	Accident Type/ Cause of Death	Boat Type/ Size (length/hp)	PFD	Alcohol Involved
9.	05-27-02	Middle Lake Lauderdale Chain	1	Collision	PWC	Yes	No
	2:20 pm	Walworth	24	Trauma	12/155hp		

Victim and companion were operating borrowed pwc's and companions pwc went over the top of victim's pwc, striking victim.

#	Date/ Time	Water Body/ County	# Fatalites/ Age	Accident Type/ Cause of Death	Boat Type/ Size (length/hp)	PFD	Alcohol Involved
10.	06-08-02	Lake Wissota	1	Fell overboard	Open	No	Yes
	9:11 pm	Chippewa	27	Drowning	25hp		

Victim was leaning forward on the bow when operator pulled back on the throttle to slow down. Victim fell over bow and was run over. Victim not found yet.

#	Date/ Time	Water Body/ County	# Fatalites/ Age	Accident Type/ Cause of Death	Boat Type/ Size (length/hp)	PFD	Alcohol Involved
11.	06-22-02	Mississippi River	1	Collision	PWC	Yes	No
	1:26 pm	Crawford	44	Impact/Trauma	10'		

PWC and a motorboat collided and the operator of the PWC was killed.

#	Date/ Time	Water Body/ County	# Fatalites/ Age	Accident Type/ Cause of Death	Boat Type/ Size (length/hp)	PFD	Alcohol Involved
12.	06-30-02	Lake Waubesa	1	Swimming	Pontoon	No	Yes
	pm	Dane	45	Drowning	18'		

Victim jumped into water to go swimming and was unable to get back to the boat.

#	Date/ Time	Water Body/ County	# Fatalites/ Age	Accident Type/ Cause of Death	Boat Type/ Size (length/hp)	PFD	Alcohol Involved
13.	07-04-02	Delavan Lake	1	Swimming	Open	No	No
	5:15 pm	Walworth	19	Drowning	18'		

Victim went into water to go tubing. Waves caused the boat to be separated from the tube. Victim was unable to get back to the boat.

#	Date/ Time	Water Body/ County	# Fatalites/ Age	Accident Type/ Cause of Death	Boat Type/ Size (length/hp)	PFD	Alcohol Involved
14.	07-05-02	Lake Puckaway	1	Swimming	Open	No	
	7:45 am	Green Lake	64	Drowning	12'/no motor		

Victim fell out of boat and drowned.

#	Date/ Time	Water Body/ County	# Fatalites/ Age	Accident Type/ Cause of Death	Boat Type/ Size (length/hp)	PFD	Alcohol Involved
15.	07-15-02	Chequamegon Bay	1	Capsized	Open	No	
	5:20 pm	Ashland	75	Drowning	15'/75hp		

Victim's boat was anchored from the stern and waves started washing over stern and boat capsized.

#	Date/ Time	Water Body/ County	# Fatalites/ Age	Accident Type/ Cause of Death	Boat Type/ Size (length/hp)	PFD	Alcohol Involved
16.	7-18-02	Amacoy Lake	1	Fell Overboard	Open	No	
	4:46 pm	Rusk	41	Unknown	14'/4hp		

Victim's boat was found operating in circles with no one on board.

#	Date/ Time	Water Body/ County	# Fatalites/ Age	Accident Type/ Cause of Death	Boat Type/ Size (length/hp)	PFD	Alcohol Involved
17.	7-23-02	Lac La Belle Lake	1	Fell Overboard	Open	No	
	3:17 pm	Waukesha	65	Drowning	15'/25hp		

Victim's boat was found operating in circles with no one on board.

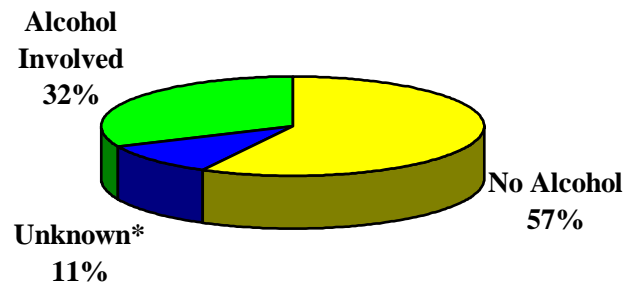
#	Date/ Time	Water Body/ County	# Fatalites/ Age	Accident Type/ Cause of Death	Boat Type/ Size (length/hp)	PFD	Alcohol Involved
18.	7-26-02	Pickerel Lake	1	Capsized	Canoe	No	
	7:45 pm	Portage	13	Drowning	17'/no motor		

Victim was in a canoe with 3 other children. The canoe began to sink and all jumped into the water. Victim drowned.

#	Date/ Time	Water Body/ County	# Fatalites/ Age	Accident Type/ Cause of Death	Boat Type/ Size (length/hp)	PFD	Alcohol Involved
19.	8-11-02	Apple River	1	Fell overboard	Inner-Tube	No	Yes
	6:00 pm	St. Croix	18	Drowning	4'/no motor		

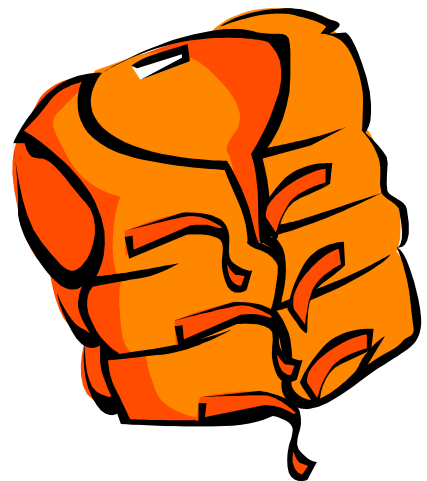
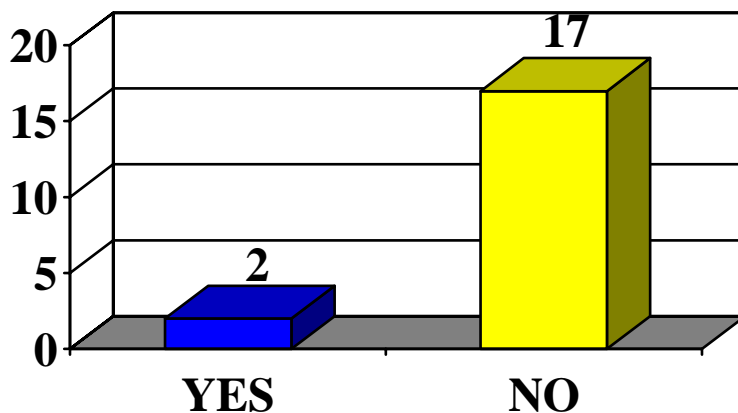
Victim fell from inner tube and his foot caught in rocks. The current forced the victim under.

2002 Boating Fatalities Alcohol Involvement

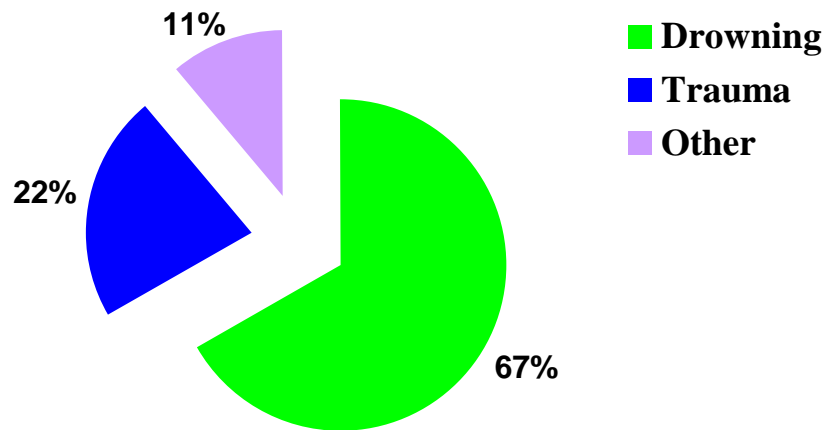


*Unknowns are often due to bodies being recovered too late to test. Delayed recovery is a large obstacle to collecting reliable data on blood alcohol levels. It is often the case that victims are recovered days or months later, and a blood analysis would be invalid.

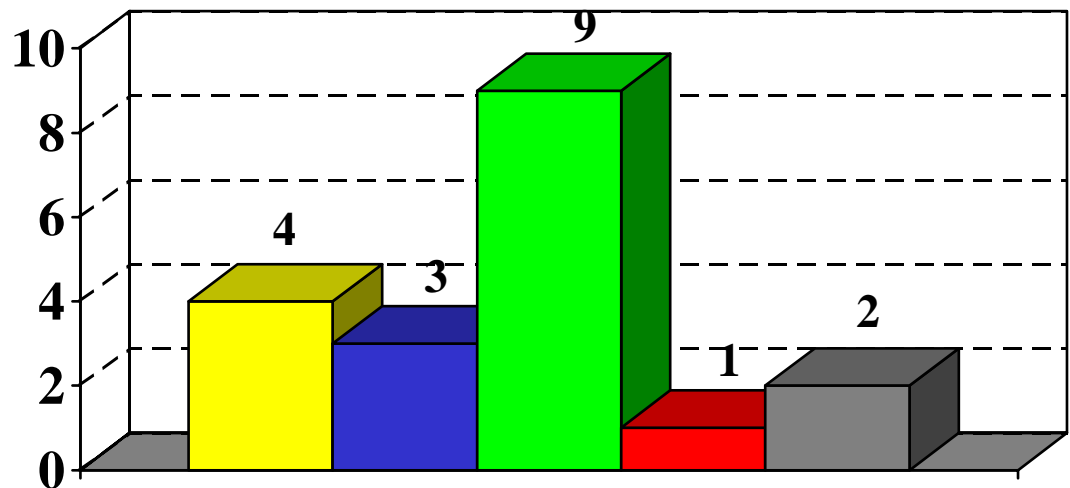
2002 FATALITIES - WAS THE PERSON WEARING A PFD



Total Fatalities in 2002 Were 19



2002 Boating Fatalities Activity at Time of Accident

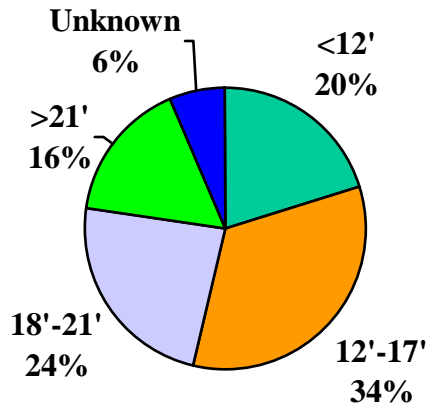


Activities

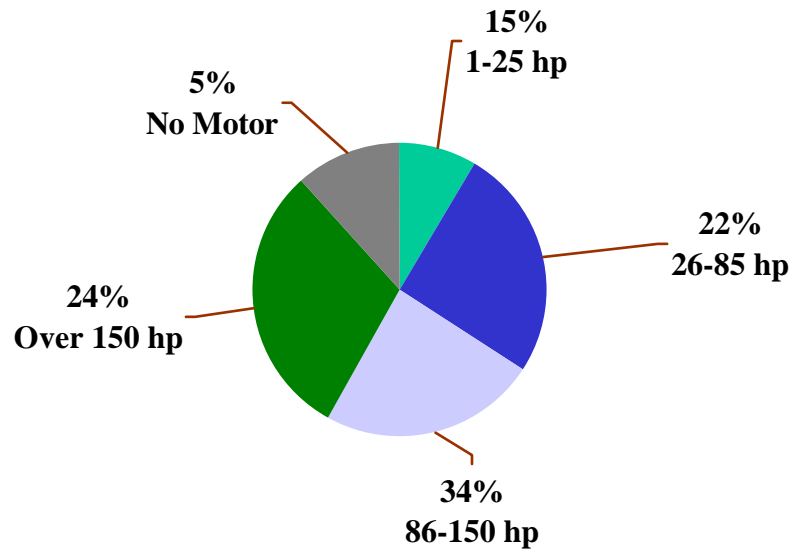


Boat Length & Motor Size of Boats Involved in 2002 Accidents

Boat Length

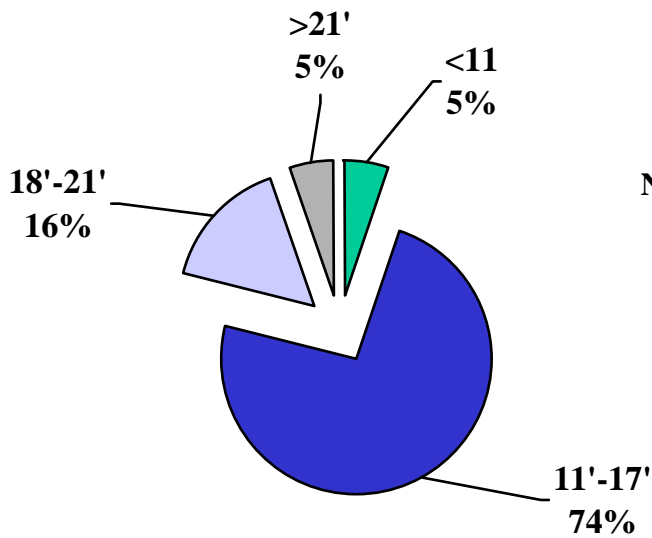


Motor Size

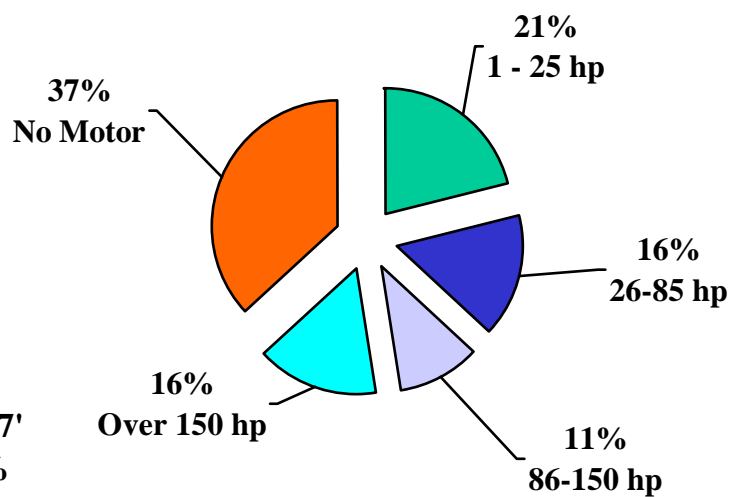


Boat Length & Motor Size of Boats Involved in 2002 Fatalities

Boat Length



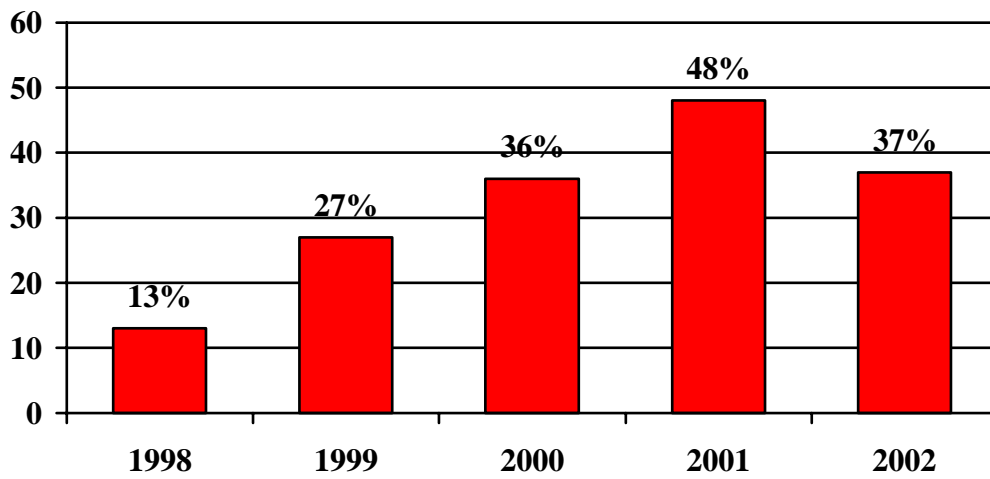
Motor Size



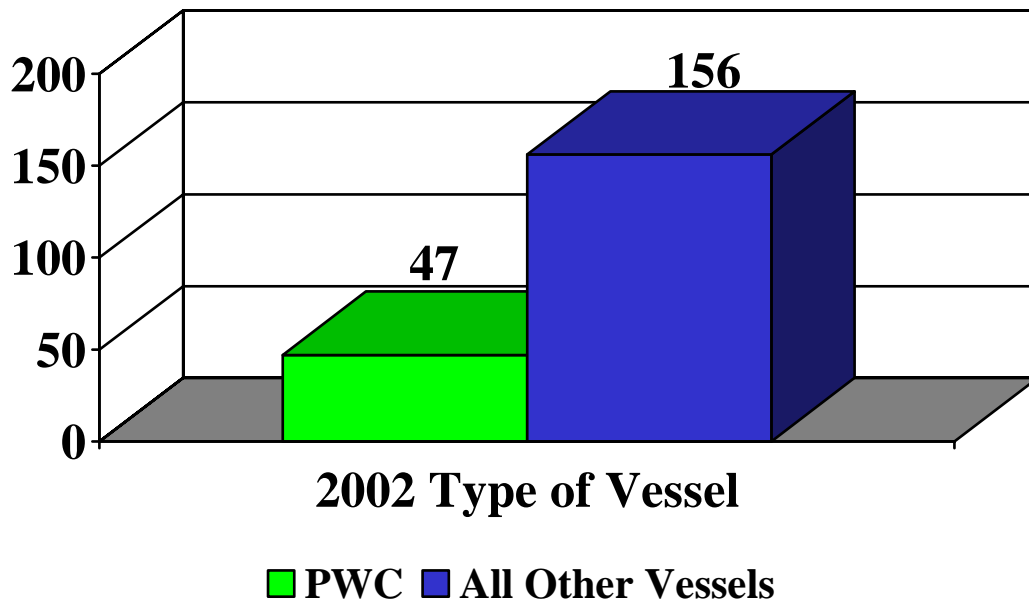
Fifty-Eight percent (58%) of the boats involved in fatal accidents were 25 hp or less.

These figures are not altered by PWC involvement. Non-motorized boats are the leading vessels for the fatality rate.

PERCENT OF FATALITIES INVOLVING NON-MOTORIZED BOATS



TYPE OF VESSEL IN 2002 ACCIDENTS



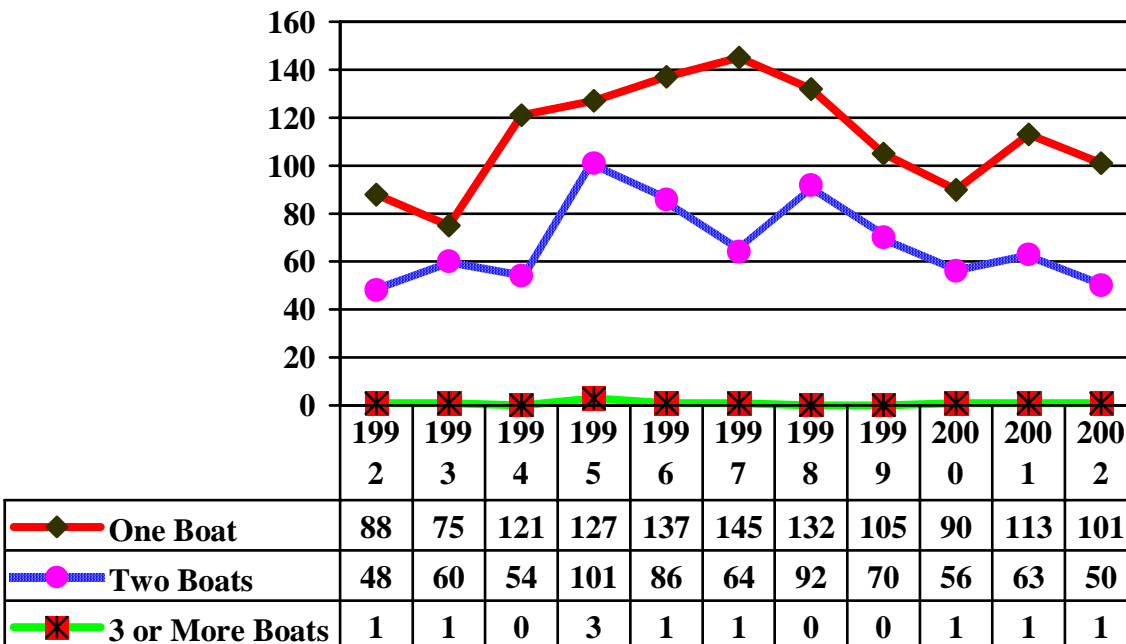
2001 Boat Accidents By Vessel Type

Type of Boat	# Vessels	# Fatalities	# Injuries
Open Motorboat	104	8	64
Personal Watercraft (PWC)	47	2	33
Cabin Motorboat	13	0	3
Pontoon/Houseboat	11	1	5
Other (inflatable, paddle boat)	11	1	4
Canoe/Kayak	4	2	2
Auxiliary Sail	7	1	0
Rowboat	4	4	0
Sail (only)	2	0	2

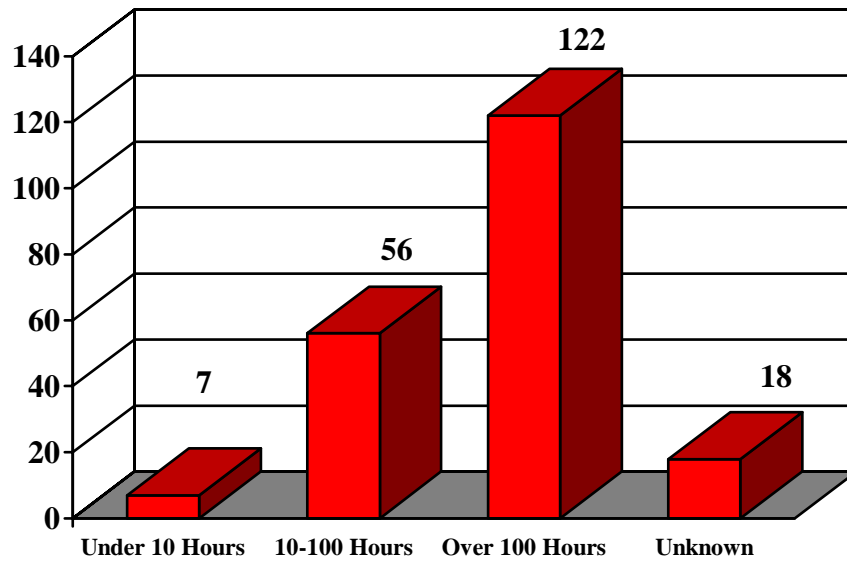
The chart above shows the type of boat each injured person or fatality was an occupant of.

There were 152 reportable accidents in Wisconsin in 2002, however there were 203 vessels involved because of the multiple vessel accidents.

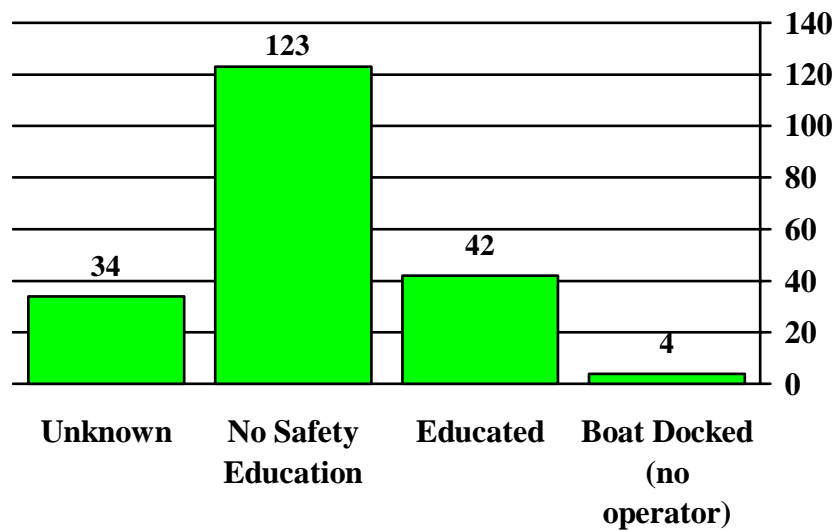
of Accidents Involving 1 vs. 2 Vessels



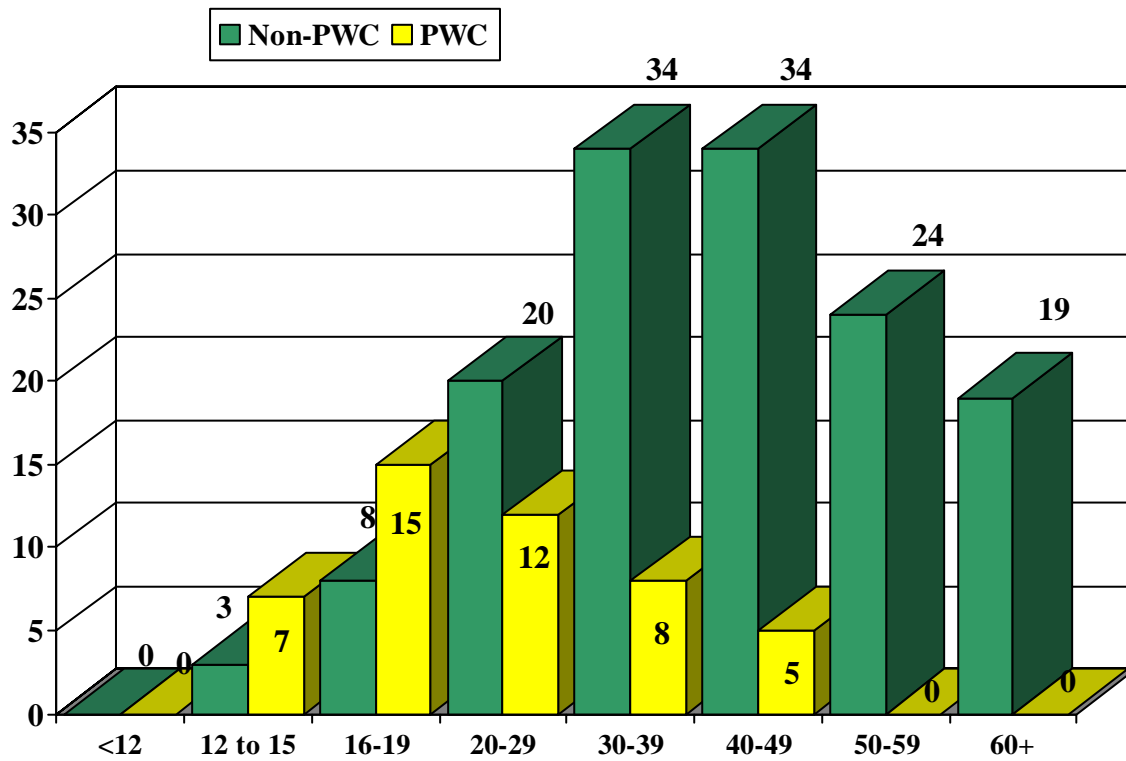
2002 Boating Accidents Operator Experience



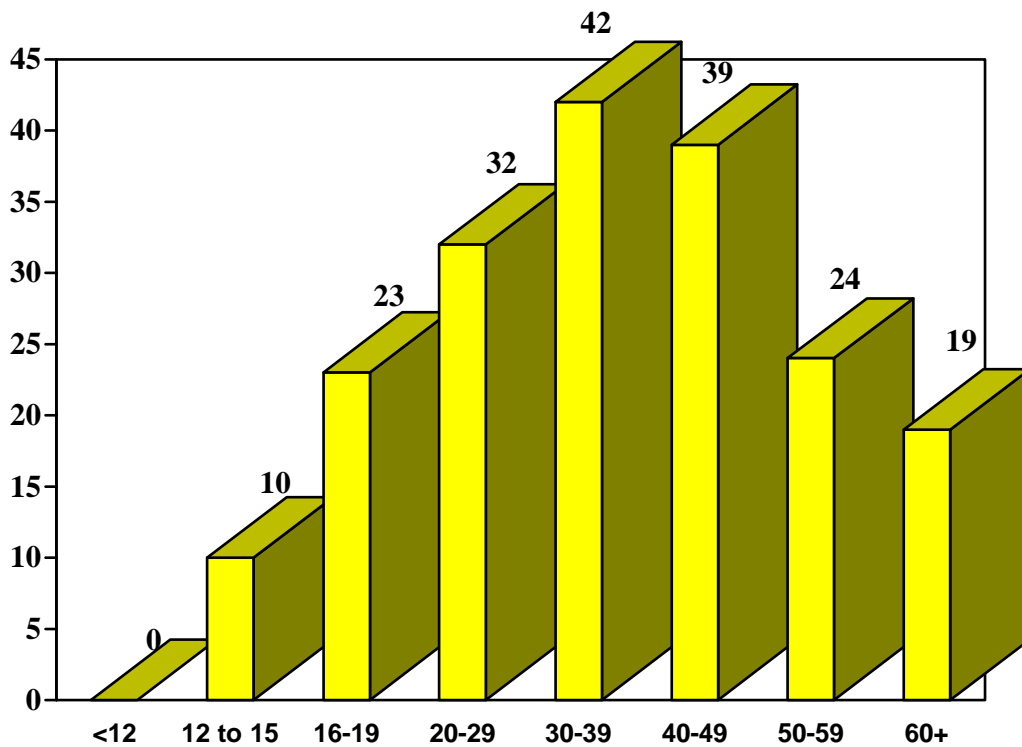
2002 Boating Accident Operator Safety Education



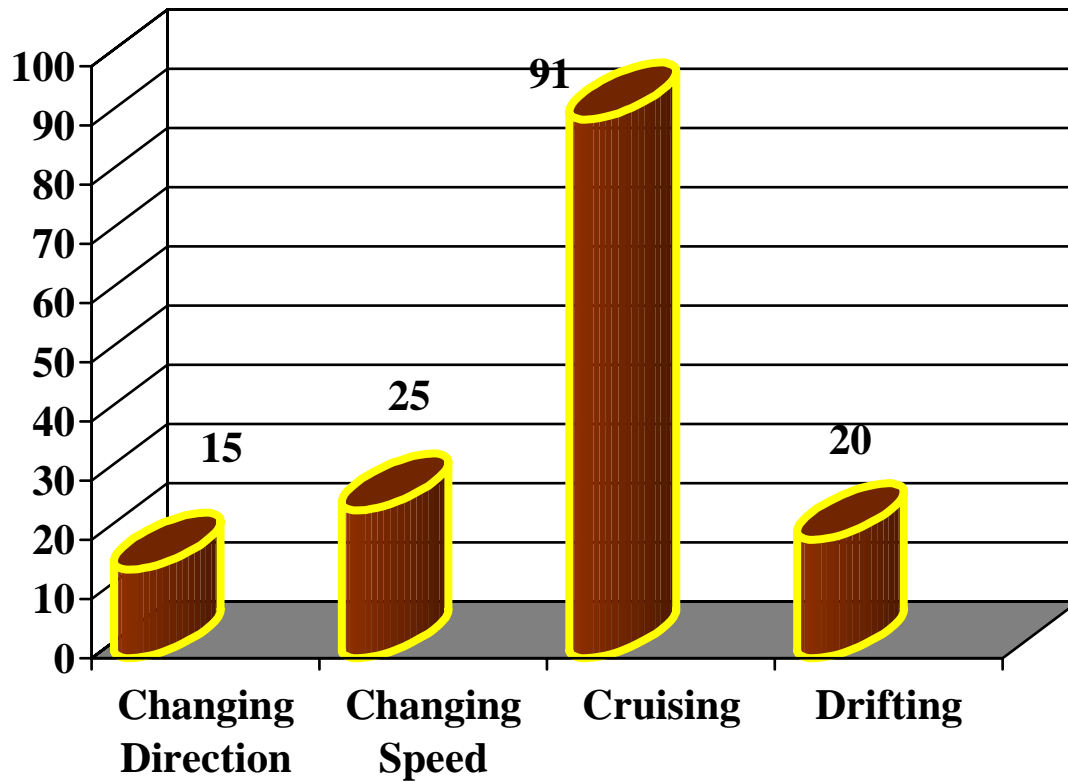
2002 PWC Vs. Non-PWC Accidents Operator Age



2002 Boating Accidents Age of Operator

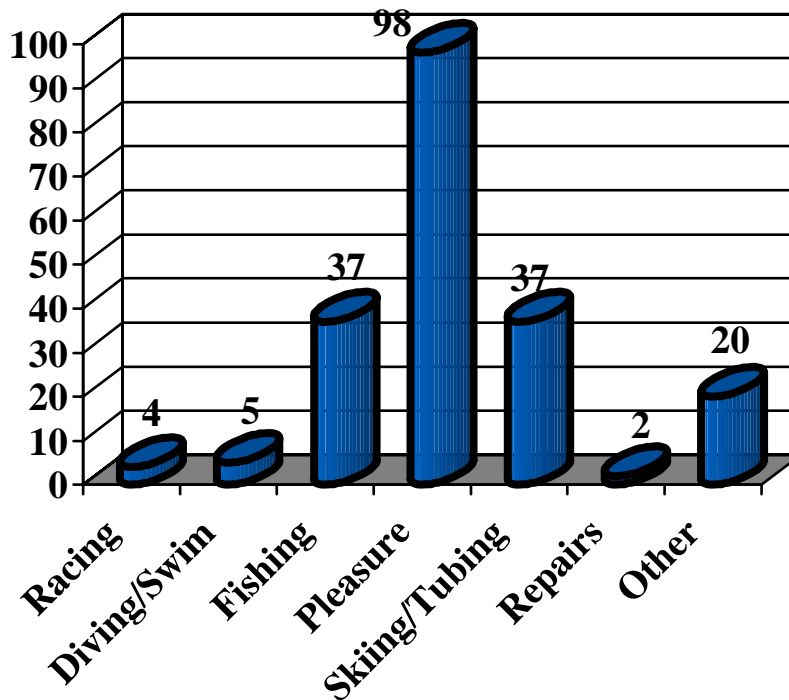


2002 Boating Accidents
Operation at Time of Accident
Top Four Activities Listed

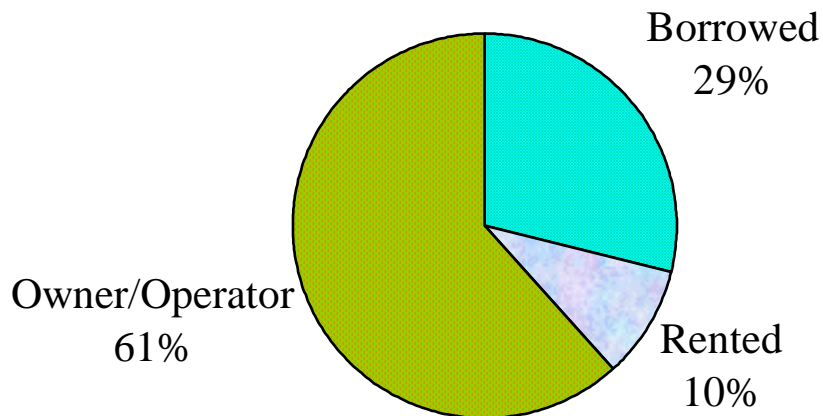


NOTE: These were the same top four activities as last year

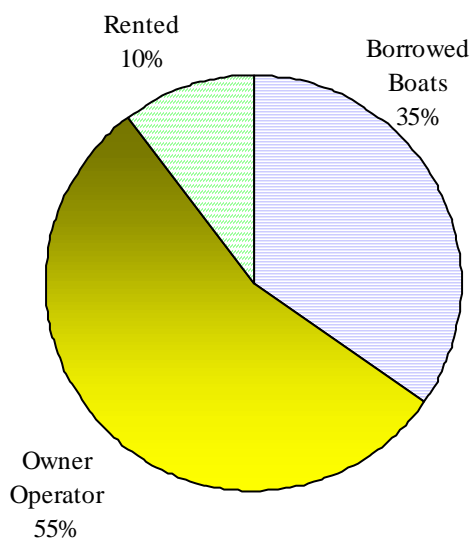
2002 Boat Accident
By Activity Type



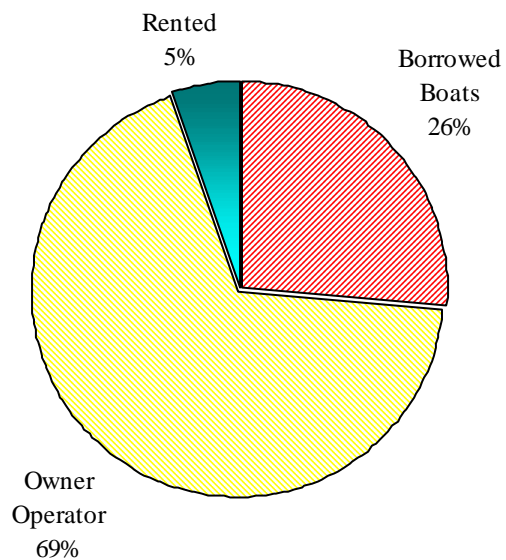
2002 Boat Accidents Rented/Borrowed/Owner All Vessels



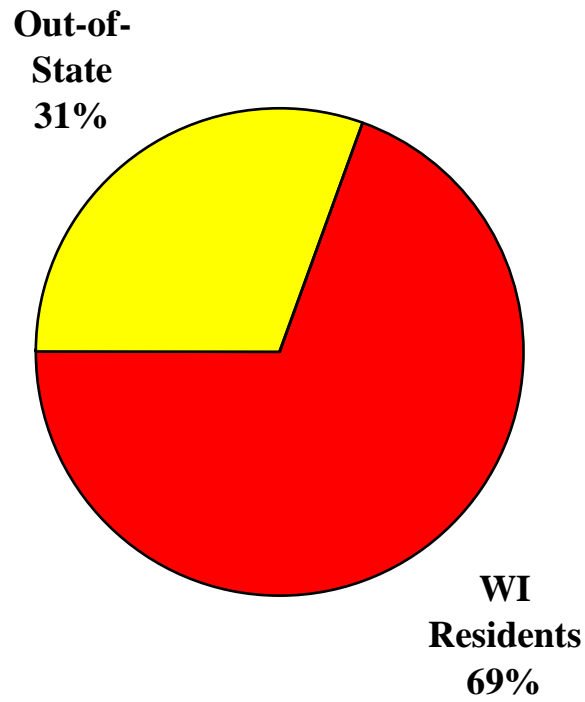
Injuries



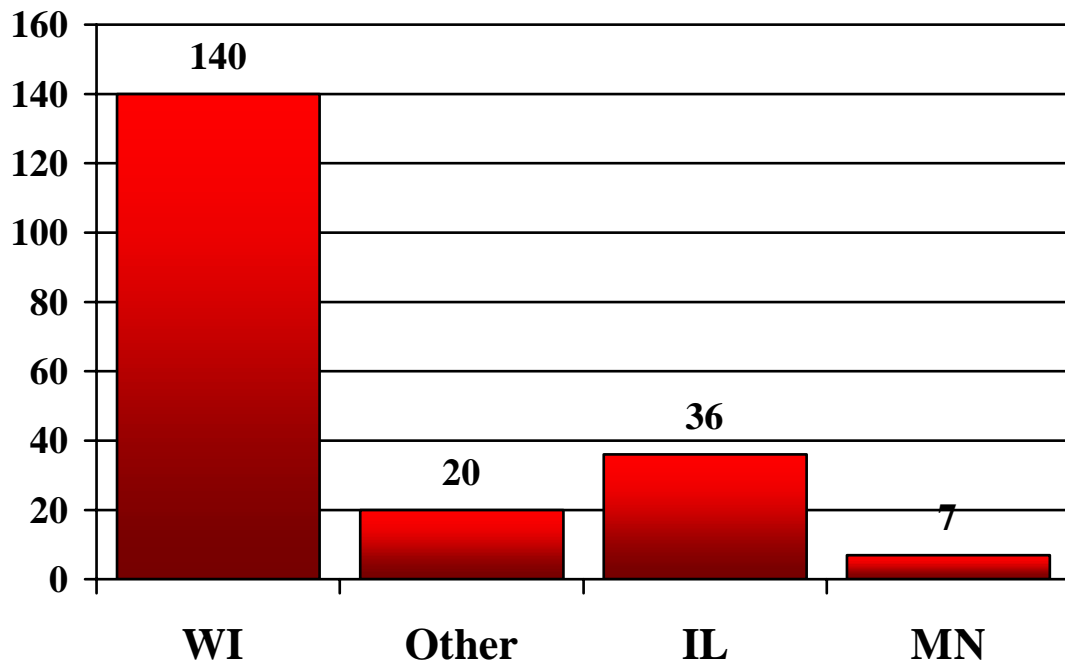
Fatalities



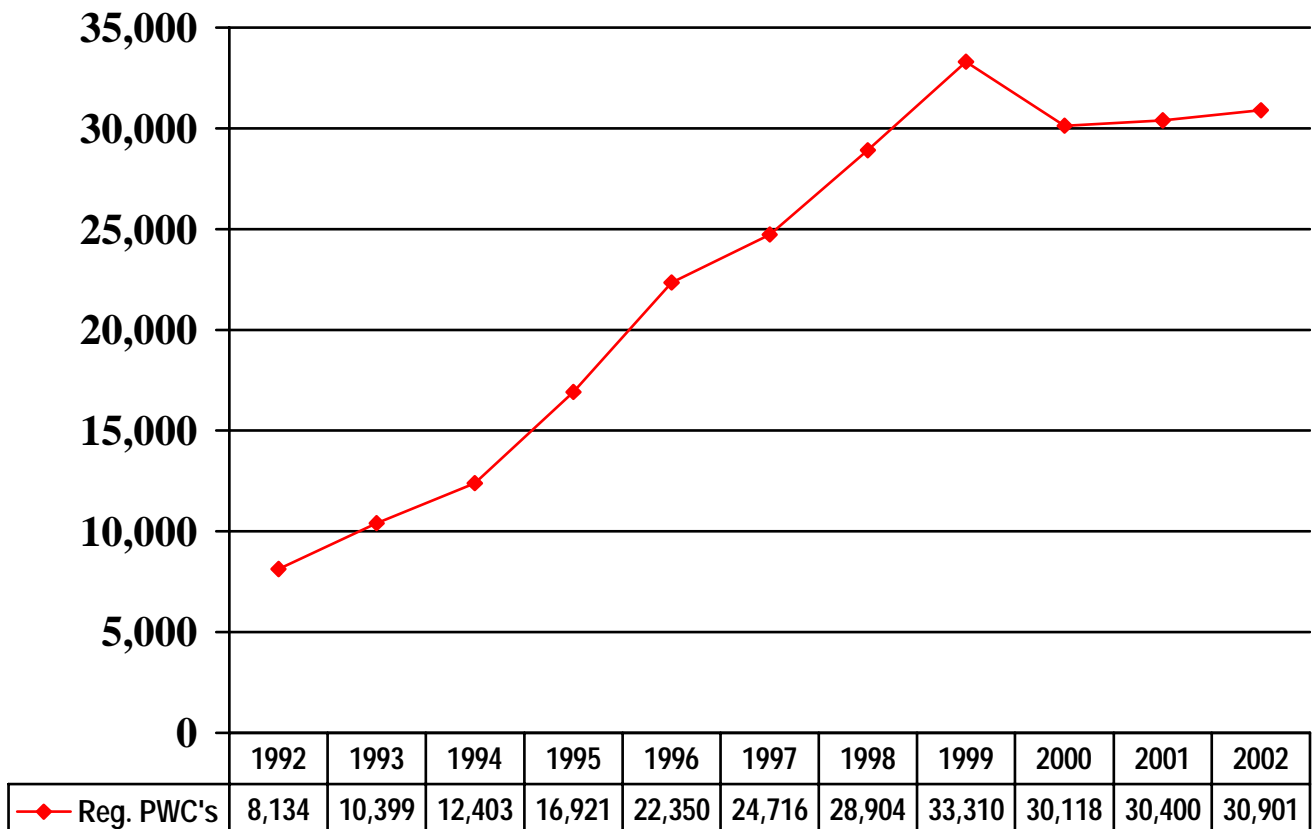
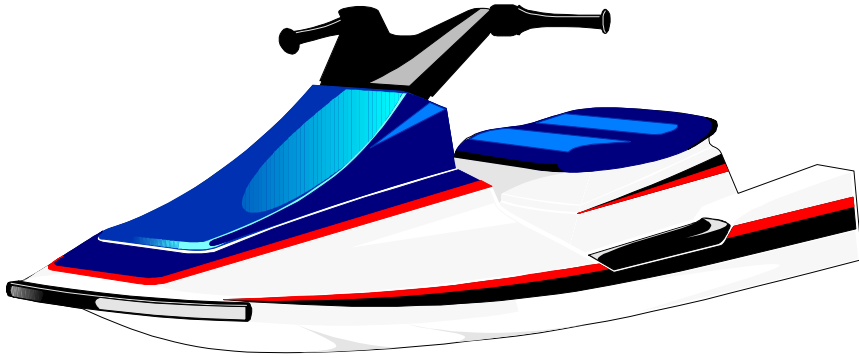
**2002 Boating Accidents
Operator Residence**



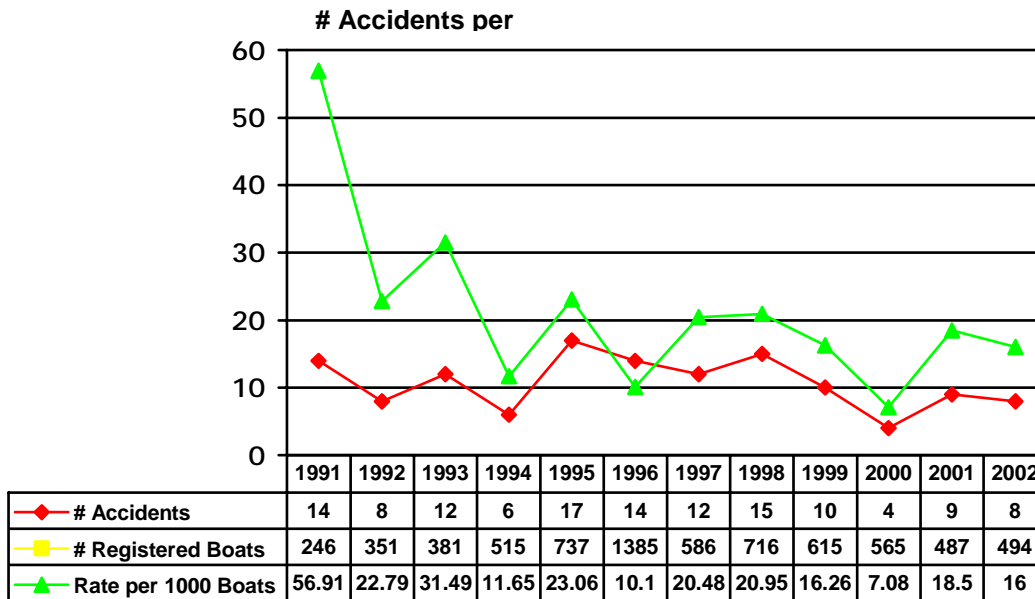
**2002 Boating Accidents
Operator Residence**



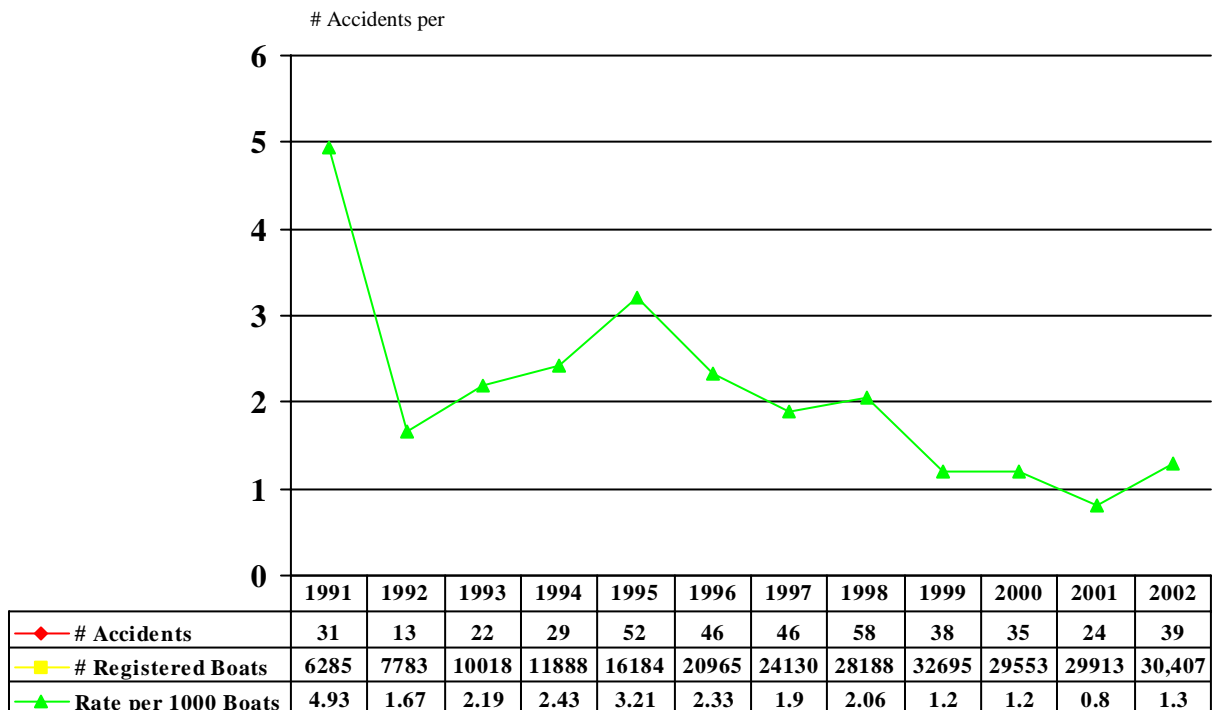
PWC's Registered In Wisconsin Over the Past 10 Years



Rental PWC Accident Rates Per 1.000 Registered

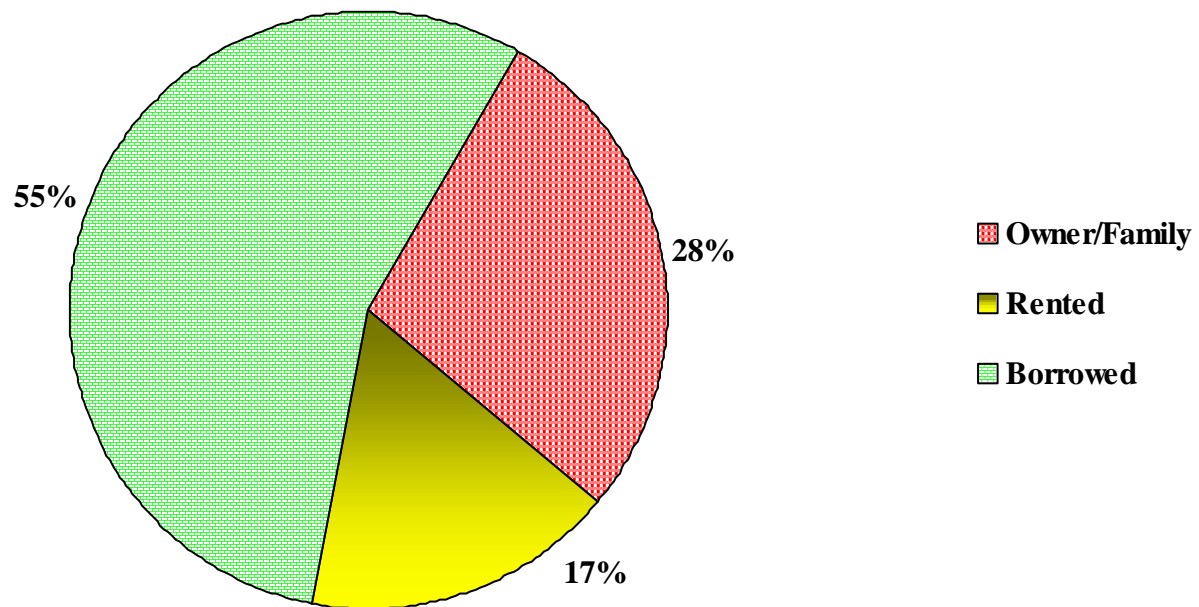


Non-Rental PWC Accident Rates Per 1.000

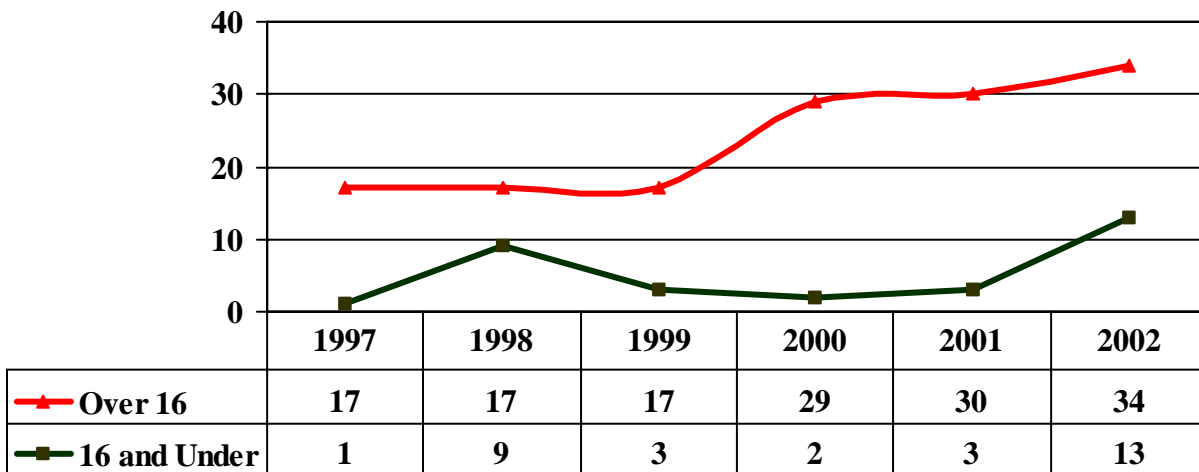




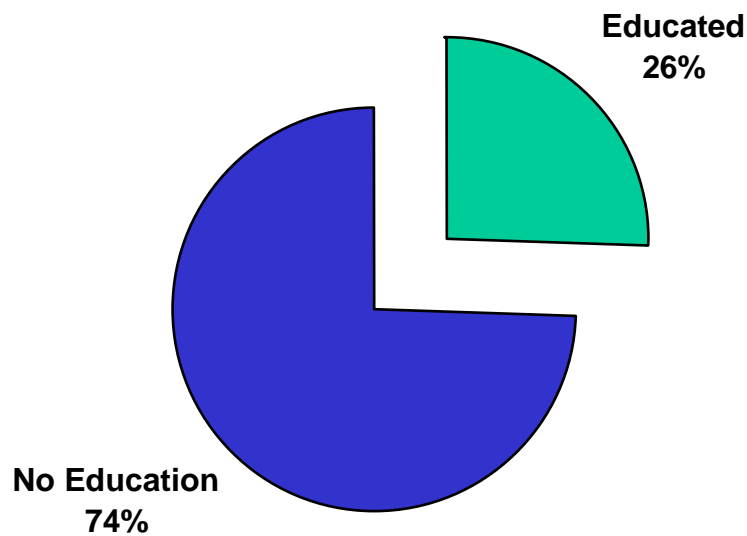
ALL PWC Accidents in 2002



PWC Age of Operators Involved in Accidents

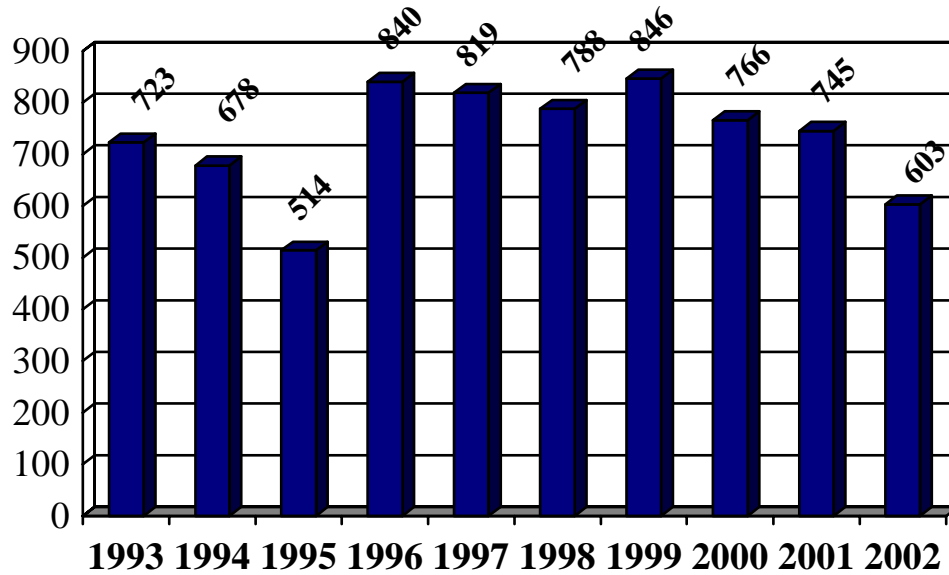


PWC Operators Boat Safety Education Education vs. No formal Education



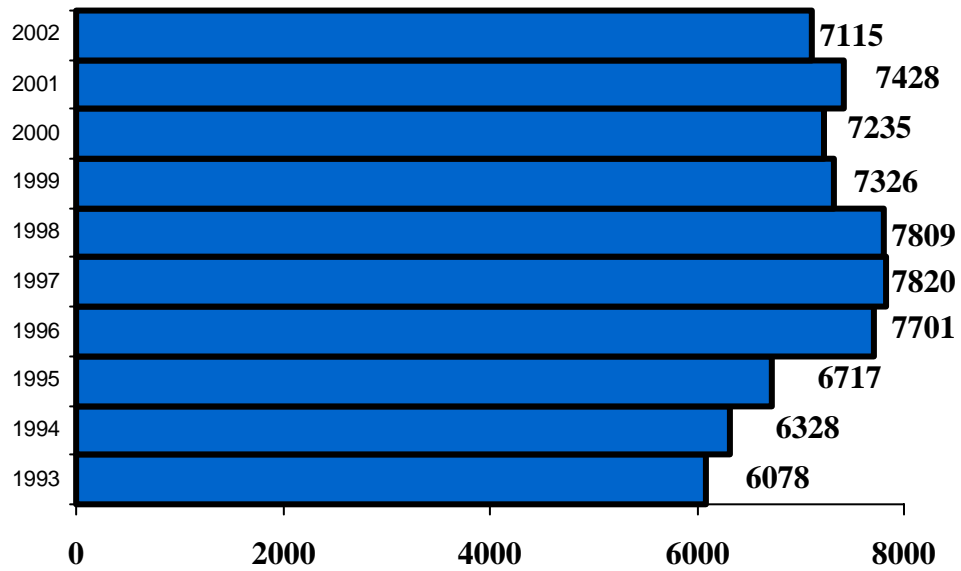
Boating Education in Wisconsin

Number of Active Instructors

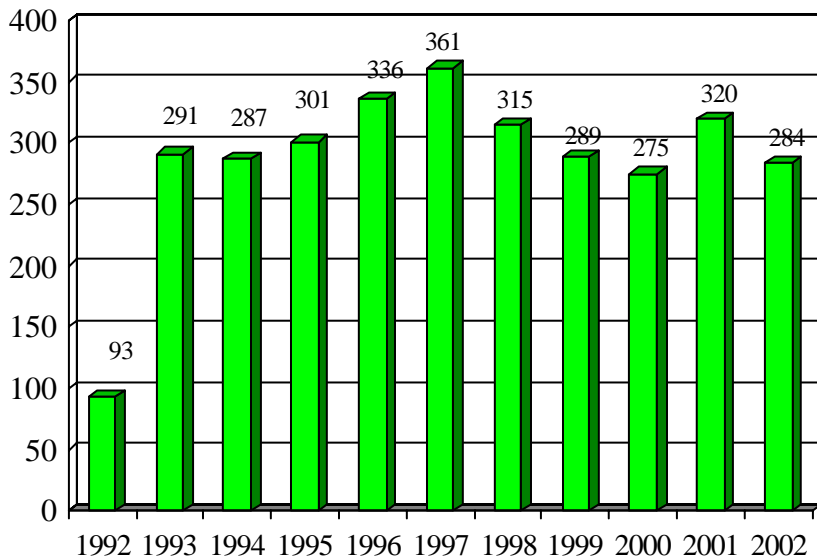


BOATING EDUCATION

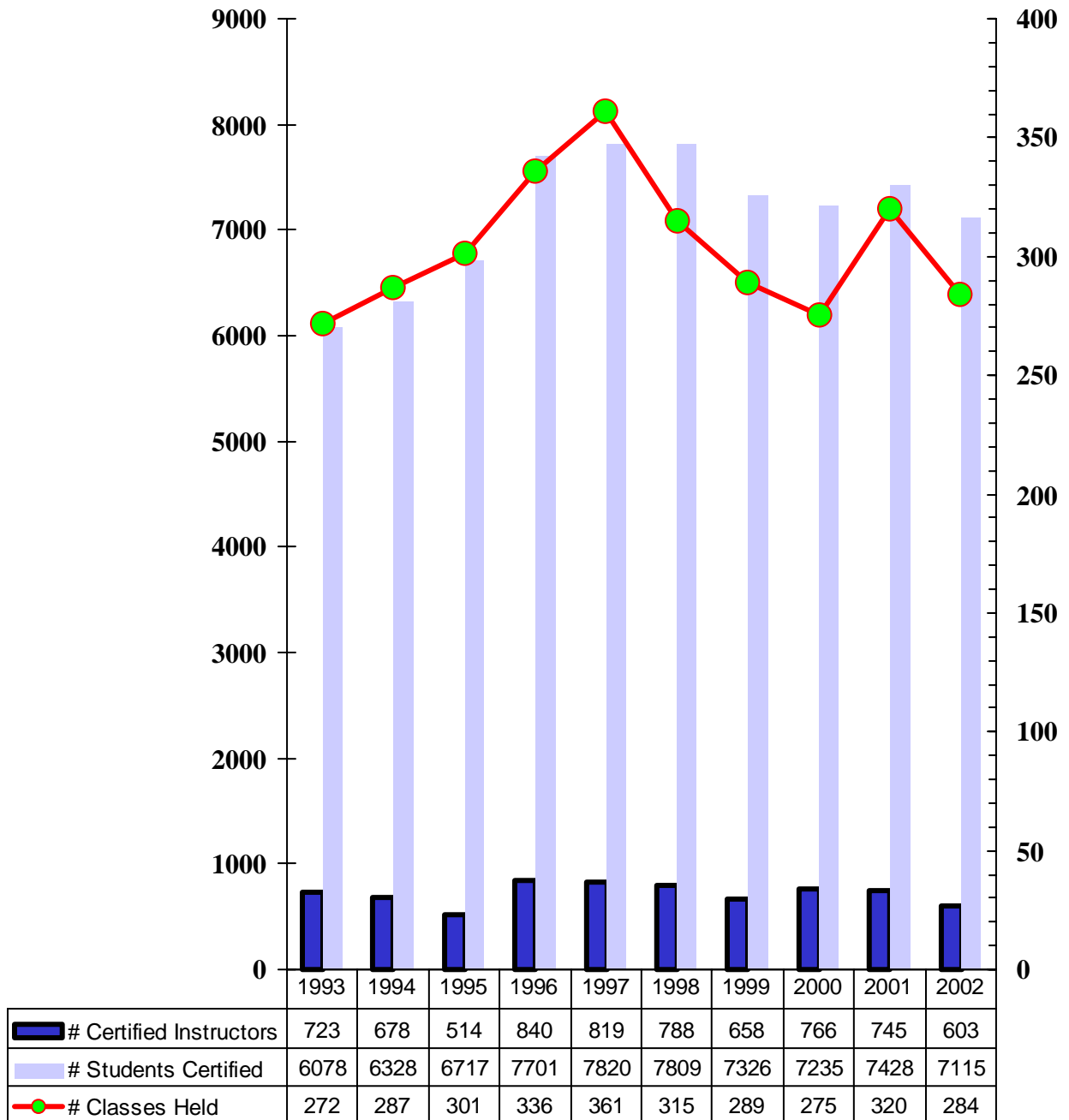
**Number of Students
Certified**



**Number of Boating
Classes Held**

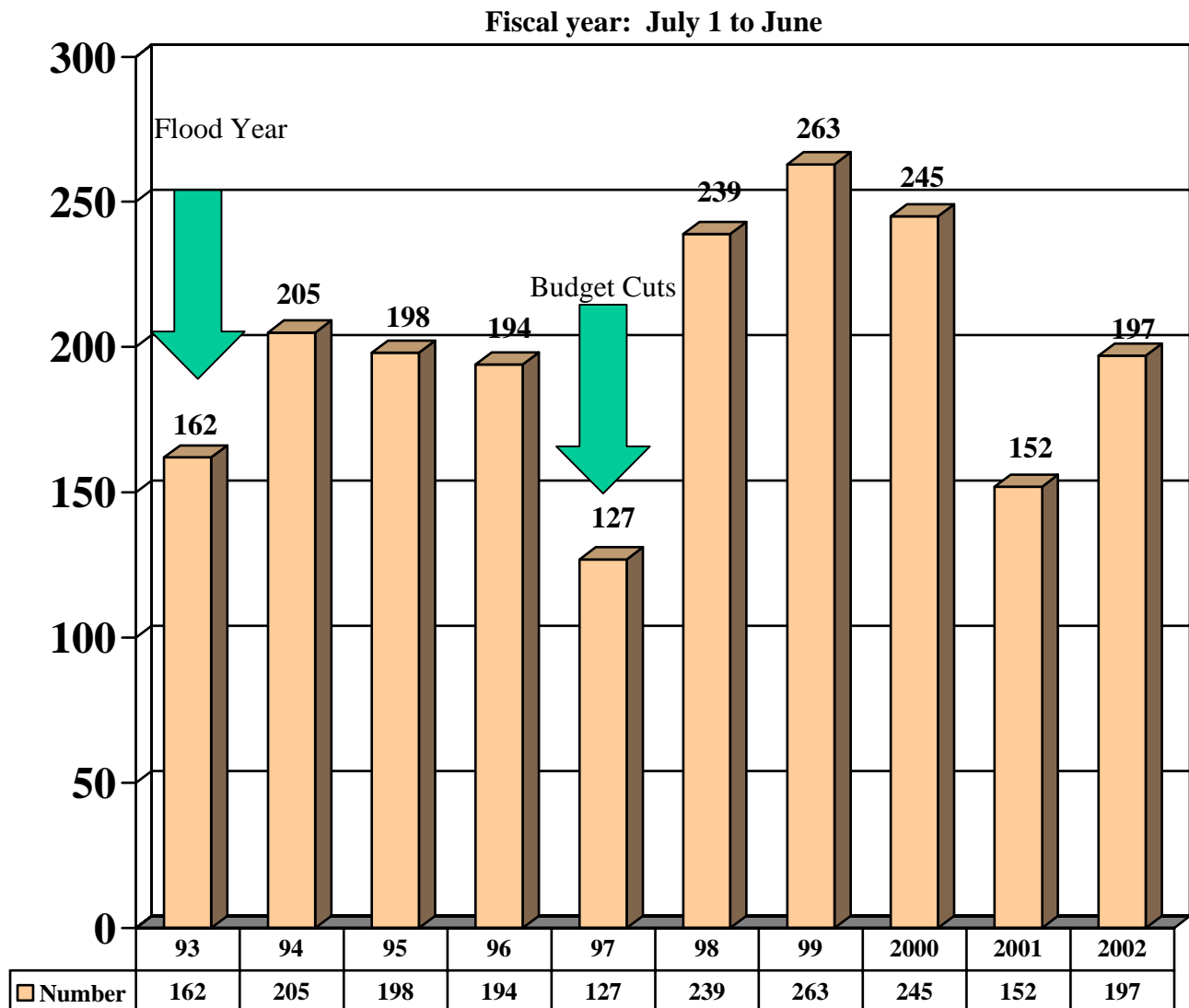


Boating Education



NOTE: The number of certified instructors does not include USCGA and USPS instructors. The numbers above reflect DNR instructors only.

Boating Intoxicated Incidents (State-Wide Totals) Past 10 years



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